

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Preliminary Comments

Applicant notes that transfer of responsibility for prosecution of the subject patent application was transferred to the Undersigned Attorney following receipt of the Office Action to which this paper is responsive. Applicant apologizes in advance for any inconvenience resulting from the claim amendment requested herein, but believes that the claims as amended herein more particularly describe the invention.

Claim Amendments

All previously pending claims have been cancelled and new Claims 16-19 have been added and are directed toward the embodiments shown in Figs. 1-5. In this embodiment, the rigid tow bar element (item 201 in Fig. 1) pivotably connects to the trailer body at one end (see, for example, paragraph 36 and Fig. 1) and to a tow vehicle at a second end (either directly or through a linkage). The shape of the rigid tow bar is non-planar with respect to level ground and contains an out-of-plane bend to achieve the desired rotation of the trailer body as recited in new Claim 16.

Objection to Drawings

Formal drawings are submitted herewith

Objection to the Disclosure

Various clarifying changes have been made to the disclosure in accordance with instructions provided by the Patent Office.

Rejection of Claims 3, 5-10 and 15 Under 35 USC 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 3, 5-10 and 15 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. This rejection has been obviated by the cancellation of Claim 1-15.

Rejection of Claims 1, 4-6 and 8-10 Under 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 1, 4-6 and 8-10 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Keech. Claim 1, 4-6 and 8-10 have been cancelled. With respect to new Claims 16-19 Applicant notes that recited claim elements are not found within the Keech reference, or any other reference known to Applicant. Specifically, Applicant recites a tow bar that is:

pivotably connected to the front end of the trailer body and connectable to a tow vehicle such that the rearward movement of the tow vehicle, with the trailer wheels blocked or locked to prevent rearward rolling of the dumping utility trailer, results in rotation of the trailer body about the axle and dumping of any load in the dumping utility trailer.

This limitation is not taught or disclosed by the Keech reference. The tow bar of Keech is substantially parallel with level ground. See e.g. Keech Figures 4A-4D. If the Keech trailer wheels were blocked or otherwise locked, reversing the tow vehicle in the direction of the locked trailer would not predictably result in load dumping. Rather, the likely result would be damage to the trailer (such as bending of the tow bar), damage to the tow vehicle, or both. Contrary to Applicant's invention, the pivotable linkage of the tow bar to the trailer body taught by Keech would have no substantial tendency to result in load dumping of a tow vehicle were reversed in the direction of a wheel-locked trailer. Accordingly, the Applicant hereby submits that Claim 16 is novel over the trailer disclosed by the Keech reference.

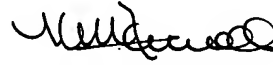
Rejection of Claim 2 Under 35 USC 103(a)

The Patent Office has rejected Claim 2 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keech in view of Pietroroia. As noted above, Claim 2 is currently cancelled, and none of claims 16-19 are directed at the same feature of the present invention. As such, the Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are patentable over the cited combination of Keech and Pietroroia.

Summary

In light of the above amendment, consideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested. Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 500282.

Respectfully submitted,



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